

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 29-47, drawn to a process for manufacturing an elastomeric sleeve.

Group II, claim(s) 48-56, drawn to an apparatus for manufacturing an elastomeric sleeve.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the common technical feature of the two inventions, an elastomeric sleeve of a joint for electrical cables comprising an electric field-control element, an electrical insulating element surrounding said electric field-control element, and at least two stress control screens positioned at the axial ends of said electrical insulating element, is known in the art and therefore cannot be a special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.2. Hervig (U.S. Patent No. 4,377,547, already of record) teaches an elastomeric sleeve of a joint for electrical cables ("a molded high voltage splice body ... elastomeric sleeve"; see column 1, lines 50-53) comprising an electric field-control element ("conductive elastomeric electrode"; see column 1, line 51; an electric-field control element can be reasonably

interpreted as reading on an electrode), an electrical insulating element surrounding said electric field-control element ("curable insulating compound is then injected through the reinforced injection insert between the electrode and the sleeve under pressure to ... force the insulating compound into intimate contact with the exterior of the electrode"; see column 1, lines 58-63 and item **28** in Figure 6), and at least two stress control screens positioned at the axial ends of said electrical insulating element ("first end cap **14**", see column 2, line 34; "second end cap **23**", see column 2, line 65; see also Figure 6; said end caps function as stress control elements for the molded joint).

3. A telephone call was made to Al Santorelli on 20 November 2008 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim

remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIAM P. BELL whose telephone number is (571)270-7067. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:30 am - 5:00 pm; Alternating Fridays, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Ortiz can be reached on 571-272-1206. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

wpb

***/Angela Ortiz/
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